

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 31 and ending on page 32, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

The two streams of attenuating gas converge to form a stream of gas which entrains and attenuates the molten threads, as they exit the orifices, into fibers depending upon the degree of attenuation, microfibers, of a small diameter which is usually less than the diameter of the orifices. The gas-borne fibers or microfibers **126** are blown, by the action of the attenuating gas, onto a collecting arrangement which, in the embodiment illustrated in **Figure 5**, is the foraminous endless belt **114** which carries the elastomeric filament in substantially parallel alignment. The fibers or microfibers **126** are collected as a coherent matrix of fibers on the surface of the elastomeric fibers **118** and foraminous endless belt **114**, which is rotating clockwise as indicated by the arrow **122** in **Figure 5**. If desired, the meltblown fibers or microfibers **126** can be collected on the foraminous endless belt **114** at numerous impingement angles. Vacuum boxes (not shown) can be used to assist in retention of the matrix on the surface of the belt **114**. Typically the tip **128** of the die **110** is from about 6 inches to about 14 inches from the surface of the foraminous belt **114** upon which the fibers are collected. The entangled fibers or microfibers **424 126** autogenously bond to at least a portion of the elastic continuous fibers **118** because the fibers or microfibers **424 126** are still somewhat tacky or molten while they are deposited on the elastic continuous fibers **118**, thereby forming the elastic fibrous web **130**. The fibers are quenched by allowing them to cool to a temperature below about 38° C.